

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method of establishing a direct connection
2 through a multimedia-capable service network, comprising
3 the steps:
4 upon receiving an indication to initiate a
5 direct connect session with respect to a subscriber,
6 invoking a multimedia call engine by a serving node to
7 launch a call treatment application for said subscriber;
8 querying a service profile associated with said
9 subscriber to determine an authorized destination with
10 respect to said direct connect session; and
11 responsive to said step of querying, commencing
12 said direct connect session to said authorized
13 destination.

1 2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein
2 said direct connect session is commenced in accordance
3 with at least one applicable service option associated
4 with said service profile.

1 3. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein
2 said indication to initiate a direct connect session
3 comprises an off-hook condition effectuated with respect
4 to said subscriber's terminal.

1 4. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein
2 said indication to initiate a direct connect session is
3 effectuated by pressing a key at said subscriber's
4 terminal.

1 5. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein
2 said indication to initiate a direct connect session is
3 effectuated in response to monitoring at least one of an
4 audio channel and a video channel associated with said
5 subscriber's terminal.

1 6. The method as set forth in claim 1, further
2 comprising the steps:

3 determining whether said direct connect session
4 is to be commenced with a delay; and

5 if so, commencing said direct connect session
6 to a destination specified by said subscriber.

1 7. The method as set forth in claim 6, further
2 comprising the step of selecting a default destination if
3 a destination is not specified by said subscriber when
4 said direct connect session is to be commenced with a
5 delay.

1 8. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein
2 said authorized destination comprises a governmental
3 entity.

1 9. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein
2 said authorized destination comprises a commercial
3 entity.

1 10. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein
2 said authorized destination comprises an individual
3 party.

1 11. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein
2 said direct connect session comprises a one-way
3 communication channel between said subscriber and said
4 authorized destination.

1 12. The method as set forth in claim 11, further
2 comprising the step of activating a two-way communication
3 channel for said direct connect session based on an input
4 provided by said subscriber.

1 13. The method as set forth in claim 11, further
2 comprising the step of activating a two-way communication
3 channel for said direct connect session based on
4 monitoring for a predesignated indicium transmitted via
5 said one-way communication channel.

1 14. The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein
2 said one-way communication channel for said direct
3 connect session comprises an audio channel.

1 15. The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein
2 said one-way communication channel for said direct
3 connect session comprises an video channel.

1 16. The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein
2 said one-way communication channel for said direct
3 connect session comprises an information channel to
4 deliver select information to said authorized
5 destination.

1 17. The method as set forth in claim 16, wherein
2 said select information comprises at least one of audio,
3 video and data information.

1 18. The method as set forth in claim 11, wherein
2 said one-way communication channel for said direct
3 connect session comprises an information channel to
4 capture select information from said authorized
5 destination.

1 19. The method as set forth in claim 18, wherein
2 said select information comprises at least one of audio,
3 video and data information.

1 20. A direct connect system for use in a
2 multimedia-capable service network, comprising:

3 means for invoking a multimedia call engine to
4 launch a call treatment application for a subscriber upon
5 receiving an indication to initiate a direct connect
6 session involving said subscriber;

7 database means operable to store a service
8 profile associated with said subscriber;

9 service logic means associated with said call
10 treatment application for ascertaining an authorized
11 destination with respect to said direct connect session
12 by interacting with said database means; and

13 means for commencing said direct connect
14 session to said authorized destination based on at least
15 one applicable service option associated therewith.

1 21. The direct connect system as set forth in claim
2 20, wherein said authorized destination comprises one of
3 a governmental entity, a commercial entity, and an
4 individual party.

1 22. The direct connect system as set forth in claim
2 20, wherein said indication to initiate a direct connect
3 session comprises an off-hook condition effectuated with
4 respect to said subscriber's terminal.

1 23. The direct connect system as set forth in claim
2 20, wherein said indication to initiate a direct connect
3 session is effectuated by pressing a key at said
4 subscriber's terminal.

1 24. The direct connect system as set forth in claim
2 20, wherein said indication to initiate a direct connect
3 session is effectuated in response to monitoring at least
4 one of an audio channel and a video channel associated
5 with said subscriber's terminal.

1 25. The direct connect system as set forth in claim
2 20, wherein said direct connect session comprises at
3 least a one-way communication channel between said
4 subscriber and said authorized destination.

1 26. The direct connect system as set forth in
2 claim 25, wherein said one-way communication channel for
3 said direct connect session comprises an audio channel.

1 27. The direct connect system as set forth in claim
2 25, wherein said one-way communication channel for said
3 direct connect session comprises an video channel.

1 28. The direct connect system as set forth in claim
2 25, wherein said one-way communication channel for said
3 direct connect session comprises an information channel
4 to deliver select information to said authorized
5 destination.

1 29. The direct connect system as set forth in claim
2 28, wherein said select information comprises at least
3 one of audio, video and data information.

1 30. The direct connect system as set forth in claim
2 25, wherein said one-way communication channel for said
3 direct connect session comprises an information channel
4 to capture select information from said authorized
5 destination.

1 31. The direct connect system as set forth in claim
2 30, wherein said select information comprises at least
3 one of audio, video and data information.

1 32. A computer-accessible medium operable with a
2 network element disposed in a multimedia-capable next-
3 generation network, said computer-accessible medium
4 carrying a sequence of instructions which, when executed
5 by at least one processing entity associated with said
6 multimedia-capable next-generation network, cause the
7 following steps to be performed:

8 upon receiving an indication to initiate a
9 direct connect session with respect to a subscriber,
10 invoking a multimedia call engine by a serving node to
11 launch a call treatment application for said subscriber;

12 querying a service profile associated with said
13 subscriber to determine an authorized destination with
14 respect to said direct connect session; and

15 responsive to said step of querying, commencing
16 said direct connect session to said authorized
17 destination.

1 33. The computer-accessible medium as set forth in
2 claim 32, wherein said authorized destination comprises
3 one of a governmental entity, a commercial entity, and an
4 individual party.

1 34. The computer-accessible medium as set forth in
2 claim 32, wherein said indication to initiate a direct
3 connect session comprises an off-hook condition
4 effectuated with respect to said subscriber's terminal.

1 35. The computer-accessible medium as set forth in
2 claim 32, wherein said indication to initiate a direct
3 connect session is effectuated by pressing a key at said
4 subscriber's terminal.

1 36. The computer-accessible medium as set forth in
2 claim 32, wherein said indication to initiate a direct
3 connect session is effectuated in response to monitoring
4 at least one of an audio channel and a video channel
5 associated with said subscriber's terminal.

1 37. The computer-accessible medium as set forth in
2 claim 32, wherein said direct connect session comprises
3 at least a one-way communication channel between said
4 subscriber and said authorized destination.

1 38. The computer-accessible medium as set forth in
2 claim 37, wherein said one-way communication channel for
3 said direct connect session comprises an audio channel.

1 39. The computer-accessible medium as set forth in
2 claim 37, wherein said one-way communication channel for
3 said direct connect session comprises an video channel.

1 40. The computer-accessible medium as set forth in
2 claim 37, wherein said one-way communication channel for
3 said direct connect session comprises an information
4 channel to deliver select information to said authorized
5 destination.

1 41. The computer-accessible medium as set forth in
2 claim 40, wherein said select information comprises at
3 least one of audio, video and data information.

1 42. The computer-accessible medium as set forth in
2 claim 37, wherein said one-way communication channel for
3 said direct connect session comprises an information
4 channel to capture select information from said
5 authorized destination.

1 43. The computer-accessible medium as set forth in
2 claim 40, wherein said select information comprises at
3 least one of audio, video and data information.